

Alabama Has Two Distinct Severe Weather Seasons

Alabama now has two distinct severe weather seasons according to the latest tornado data. November, previously named as Alabama's Secondary Severe Weather Season, has officially surpassed March or April months during the former Primary Severe Weather Season, with the most tornadoes of any month.

According to National Weather Service data since 1950, the number of recorded tornadoes in Alabama for March and April is 199 and 196, respectively. A total of 201 tornadoes has been recorded in November during the same time period, making it the most active month for tornadoes in Alabama. (see page 18)

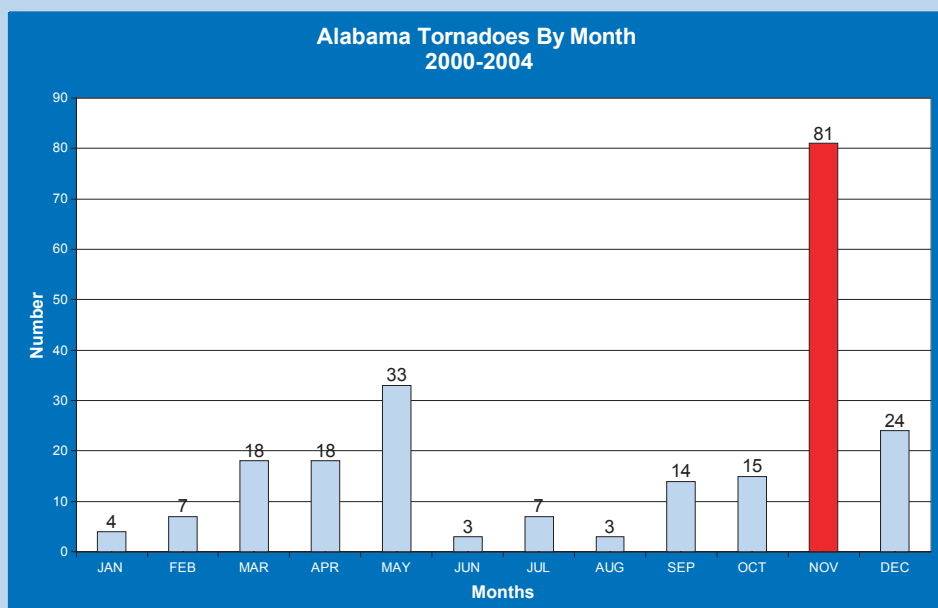
The reason for such a recent increase in tornadoes in November can be attributed to several severe weather outbreaks which have occurred during this month. Since 2000, Alabama has experienced four major outbreaks of tornadoes during the Fall Severe Weather Season.

1) November 24, 2001 - 34 tornadoes

2) November 24, 2004 - 21 tornadoes

3) December 16, 2000 - 14 tornadoes

4) November 10, 2002 - 11 tornadoes



Between 2000 and 2004, 81 tornadoes were recorded during November in Alabama, which is by far the most of any month. This number surpasses the number of tornadoes in March, April, and May combined during the same period. This proves that Alabama has two distinct severe weather seasons that are equally important, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

Amazingly, 56 tornadoes (which includes one additional tornado in 2000 to the two major outbreaks in 2001 and 2004) have been recorded on November 24 alone since 2000! This day by far is the most tornado-prone day over the past five years.

A total of 55 tornadoes were recorded across Alabama in 2004. Nearly half of these tornadoes, 26, occurred in the month of November. Only two tornadoes occurred in March, and zero occurred in April in 2004. Last year's total surpasses the 42 tornadoes reported in Alabama in 2003. On average, 23 tornadoes occur each year in Alabama.

While Alabama is ranked 13th in the nation for the number of tornadoes, it is third in the number of tornado related deaths.

Alabama is one of the few places on Earth that has two severe weather seasons. However, severe weather can occur any time of day during the year. With one of the two distinct severe weather seasons always lurking on the horizon, now is the time to prepare!